



Innovations in American Government

An awards program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the
John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.
The awards program is administered in partnership with the
Council for Excellence in Government.

NEWS

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**Contact: Sheldon Laskin, 202-624-8699
Carl Fillichio, 202-537-3244**

VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE PROGRAM CITED FOR HARVARD AWARD

(WASHINGTON D.C.) – The Voluntary Disclosure Program, a creative, forward thinking and results-driven government program from the Multistate Tax Commission, is among the 99 semifinalists named today for the prestigious **2002 Innovations in American Government Awards**. The awards competition – often referred to as the Oscars of government prizes – is a program of the Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. The award recognizes outstanding programs that devise imaginative and effective ways to meet urgent social and economic challenges. Each semifinalist is eligible for one of five top grants of \$100,000.

The program was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants and represents the best and brightest in government from across the country. It is a collaborative effort by State Departments of Revenue to allow businesses to resolve delinquent state tax liabilities anonymously and voluntarily—instead of the often-combative audit.

Four criteria are used to evaluate each application: novelty; effectiveness in addressing important problems; significance; and the potential for replication by other governmental entities.

Fifteen finalists will be selected from the semifinalists in early winter 2002. The National Selection Committee on Innovations in American Government, chaired by David R. Gergen, editor-at-large, *U.S. News & World Report* and Director of the Center Public Leadership at Harvard University, will choose five winning programs after a full day of presentations in May 2003 in Washington, D.C. Each will receive a \$100,000 grant to promote and replicate their innovative efforts.

The Innovations in American Government awards, now in its sixteenth year, promotes excellence, innovation and creativity in the public sector. A program of the Institute for Government Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the awards program is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. The Institute is funded through an endowment from the Ford Foundation.

The list of the 99 semifinalists, including a description of each program and contact information, is available on the web at www.excelgov.org.